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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1937.

PRESTON:
PRINTED BY E. AMBLER, 52 LANCASTER ROAD.
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To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have now the pleasure of presenting my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

The statement is formulated in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health through Circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

The responsibilities and work devolving on the Medical Officer and his Sanitary Officers definitely increases year by year. This is manifestly so in a large Rural area such as I am now dealing with; several portions of which are rapidly developing Urban characteristics, so much is now being done to improve the conditions under which people live, to assist and teach how life may be directed into healthful channels both for young and old, the Health Department of a Local Authority plays no small part in this section of responsibility.

In introducing the Report I desire to indicate some points of importance and interest:—

Population.—The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Rural area shows a further increase of 980, viz., 33,360 against 32,380 in 1936.

Births.—The birth-rate for 1937—15·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population—is 2·0 per 1,000 higher than the previous year, and 2·1 per 1,000 above the five years average 1932-36. The rate for 1937 is the highest since the year 1923.

Deaths.—The death rate (10·9) shows a fractional increase over 1936.

Infectious Diseases.—Scarlet fever was rather more prevalent than in the preceding twelve months—66 cases against 42; there was a marked decline in diphtheria, 11 cases as compared with 29. Enteric fever which was absent in 1936 contributed 4 cases.

Playing Fields.—The Council has displayed considerable activity in the provision of playing fields—Four sites equipped, lay-out plans prepared for five other sites and negotiations proceeding for the acquisition of further sites.

The Preston Rural District Council may be classified as a live and active body, discharging its many duties toward the ratepayers with thoughtful foresight and efficiency in every direction, with consideration in the direction of wise economy.

May I be permitted to draw attention to the valuable assistance I have had from your Clerk, Mr. Young, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Engineer, and the two additional Inspectors. These officers at all times have been ready and willing to carry out in the most efficient manner any work entrusted to them. They are trustworthy, capable officials of a high order.

I have now served as Medical Officer of Health the Preston Rural District, for a period of 58 years and at no period of my service have I ever received more kindness and consideration than during the past few years; may I thank the Members of the Public Health Committee and the Council as a whole.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June
May, 1938.

General Statistics.

Statistics and General Social Conditions of the Area.

(1) Area in acres—50,469.

(2) Population (Census 1931) 29,750.

(3) Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1937—33,360.

(4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) 7,138.

(5) End of 1937, according to Rate Books, 9,158.

(6) Rateable value—£211,086.

(7) Sum represented by a penny rate, £785.

Social conditions do not alter, nor do the occupations of the resident population. There are a few cotton mills left. The production of milk and poultry farming occupy important positions. There is considerable industry in market gardening. No definite figures as to unemployment, but in the old cotton areas there must still be many without work. All employment available is of a healthy character. There is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health of children or adults.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	509	249	260
	Illegitimate	8	4	4
	Total ...	517	253	264

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—15·4

Still Births	20	11	9

Rate per 1000 Total (live and still) Births—37.

Deaths	366	192	174

Crude death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population, †10·9

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal sepsis	1	... —
Other puerperal causes ...	3	... —
Total	4	... 7·44

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births 63

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... 64

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—35

„ Measles (all ages)—Nil.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—Nil.

Population—33,360	Per 1000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality Rate.		Rate of Deaths under One Year Per 1000 Live Births.
	Live Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Per 1000 *Live* Births.	Per 1000 *Total* (Live and Still) Births.	
Mean of 5 years 1932—1936	13·3	10·2	0·31	1·34	4·79	4·55	49
1936	13·4	10·6	0·33	1·29	6·86	6·52	50
1937	**15·4**	**†10·9**	**0·32**	**1·04**	**7·73**	**7·44**	**63**
Increase or Decrease in 1937 on Five Years' Average 1932—1936	+2·1	+0·7	+0·01	—0·30	+2·94	+2·89	+14
Previous Year ...	+2·0	+0·3	—0·01	—0·25	+0·87	+0·92	+13

† 1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0·96) = 10·4 per 1,000.

Birth and death-rates for 1937 calculated on a population of 33,360.

Attached as an appendix is a Summary Form issued by the County Medical Officer of Health to local Medical Officers of Health ; the information asked for in this Form is of a very comprehensive nature, in fact it is in itself an Annual Report.

Births and Deaths.

Live Births—The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number

of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the rural area during the year 1937 numbered 517 (males 253, females 264), 80 more than in the year 1936.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated population corresponds to 15·4 per 1000. Last year the rate was 13·4 and the mean for the five years 1932-1936 was 13·3 ; therefore the rate for the year under report exceeded that of 1936 by 2·0 per 1,000 of the population, and 2·1 per 1,000 in excess of the five years average.

Looking back through old records I find the district birth-rate in the year 1882 was 37.98 and in 1890 29·67 per 1000 of the population.

The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1937 was 14·9 per 1000 of the population ; still-birth rate 0·60 per 1000.

Still Births.—Twenty still births were registered in the Rural District (males 11, females 9), equal to a rate of 37 per 1000 live and still births.

Deaths —The Registrar-General reports that the net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1937 were 366 (males 192, females 174). This total includes 95 deaths known as "inward transfers," i.e. of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and is exclusive of 234 deaths (mainly in the Whittingham Mental Hospital and Ribchester Institution) of persons not belonging to the Rural District. Last year the corrected number of deaths was 344, 324 in 1935, 287 in 1934, 366 in 1933, 298 in 1932, 341 in 1931, 295 in 1930, 336 in 1929 and 300 in 1928.

The following tabulated statement supplied by the Registrar-General, analyses the causes of death, distinguishing males and females :—

Causes of Death.		Males.	Females.
All Causes		192	174
Paratyphoid Fever		...	1
Scarlet Fever		1	...
Diphtheria		2	...
Influenza		5	10
Respiratory tuberculosis		7	4
Other tuberculosis		2	3
Encephalitis Lethargica		...	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever		...	1
General paralysis of insane, etc.		...	2
Cancer		14	21
Diabetes		9	...
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.		13	14
Heart disease		37	40
Aneurism		...	...
Other circulatory diseases		18	7
Bronchitis		4	4
Pneumonia (all forms)		13	10
Other respiratory diseases		3	1
Peptic ulcer		3	2
Diarrhoea, &c.		...	...
Appendicitis		1	...
Other digestive diseases		2	6
Puerperal sepsis		...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		3	8
Other liver disease		2	4
Other puerperal causes.....		...	3
Congenital causes, &c.		16	8
Senility		4	4
Suicide		1	1
Other violence		9	6
Other defined diseases		23	12
Ill-defined causes		...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year	Total	21	12
	Legitimate	21	12
	Illegitimate	...	...
Live Births	Total	253	264
	Legitimate	249	260
	Illegitimate	4	4
Still Births	Total	11	9
	Legitimate	11	9
	Illegitimate	...	...
Population		33,360	

The death-rate of the Rural District, calculated on a population of 33,360 is 10·9 per 1000. Last year the death-rate was 10·6, 10·3 in 1935, 9·2 in 1934, 11·5, in 1933, 9·6 in 1932, 11·3 in 1931, 10·1 in 1930, and 12·0 in 1929. The average death-rate for the five years, 1932-1936 was 10·2. Reference to the statistics of the district extending over a long period shows that the Rural District death-rate in 1891 was 18·55 per 1000 and in 1900 19·0, or almost double the rate of the year under report.

This year the Registrar-General has again supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparable from the mortality point of view, with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. This comparability factor for the Preston Rural District for 1937, is 0·96.

The adjusted death-rate for the Rural District, using this comparability factor, is 10·4.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1937 was 12·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population, 12·5 for the 125 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, and 11·9 for the 148 Smaller Towns.

The following statement shows the number of male and female births and deaths in the four sub-districts :—

Sub-District.	Live Births.			Deaths.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Longton	69	75	144	111	110	221
Walton	3	1	4	3	4	7
Broughton	47	56	103	63	44	107
Alston	11	10	21	15	16	31
Other Births—inward transfers	123	122	245	...	...	...
Whole District	253	264	517	192	174	366

The following table, compiled from the local Registrar's monthly returns, duly corrected for inward and outward

transfers, shows the number of births and deaths registered in each township during the year 1937, distinguishing males and females, and for comparison, the totals of the four preceding years are also given :—

Sub-District.	Townships.	Live Births during 1937.			Deaths during 1937.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Wal-ton. Longton.	Farington	10	13	23	27	22	49
	Longton	23	16	39	24	20	44
	Much Hoole	2	2	4	6	6	12
	Little Hoole	2	4	6	5	3	8
	Hutton	1	5	6	9	8	17
	Penwortham	31	35	66	40	51	91
	Samlesbury	3	1	4	3	4	7
	Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broughton.	Lea	12	19	31	16	12	28
	Goosnargh	10	13	23	15	10	25
	Broughton	1	1	2	4	5	9
	Barton	5	1	6	2	4	6
	Haighton	...	1	1	2	1	3
	Woodplumpton	14	17	31	13	8	21
	*Whittingham	5	4	9	11	4	15
Alston.	†Ribchester	8	5	13	9	7	16
	Dutton	1	2	3	3	1	4
	Hothersall	...	1	1	...	1	1
	Grimsargh	2	2	4	3	7	10
	Other Births—including inward transfers, Townships not stated ...	123	122	245	...	...	...
	‡1937 Totals...	253	264	517	192	174	366
	1936 „	238	199	437	166	178	344
	1935 „	224	229	453	161	163	324
	1934 „	197	196	393	125	162	287
	1933 „	208	221	429	172	194	366

* Excluding deaths in Whittingham Mental Hospital of persons not belonging to District.

† Excluding deaths in Ribchester Institution of persons not belonging to District.

‡ Excluding 234 deaths (mainly in the Whittingham Mental Hospital and Ribchester Institution) of persons *not* belonging to the Rural District, and including 95 deaths which took place outside the District among persons belonging thereto.

Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).

Eleven deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (Phthisis) males 7, females 4, the same totals as last year, corresponding to a death-rate of 0·32 per 1000 of the population. Last year this rate was 0·33, 0·41 in 1935, 0·12 in 1934, 0·53 in 1933, 0·19 in 1932, 0·39 in 1931 and 0·48 in 1930.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Influenza.

Bronchitis in 1937 contributed 8 deaths, against 9 deaths last year and 13 in 1935.

Pneumonia (all forms) gave rise to 23 deaths, four more than last year.

Influenza caused 15 deaths, nearly double the total for last year (8).

Cancer.

During 1937 there were 35 deaths (14 males, 21 females) ascribed to cancer, seven less than in 1936. There were 44 deaths in 1935, 49 in 1934, 50 in 1933, 28 in 1932, 28 in 1931 and 31 in 1930. The distribution in the sub-districts in 1937 was—Longton 22, Walton 0, Broughton 8 and Alston 5. The cancer death-rate in 1937 was 1·04 against 1·29 in 1936, 1·39 in 1935, 1·58 in 1934, 1·57 in 1933, 0·90 in 1932, 0·93 in 1931, 1·06 in 1930, and a mean-rate of 1·34 for the five years 1932-1936.

It is gratifying to note that in each of the last five years there has been a consistent decline in the number of deaths from cancer in the Rural area, viz., 50, 49, 44, 42 and 35. Two general factors affecting the cancer mortality amongst the whole community are (1) the increasing longevity of the population, and (2) greater accuracy in the diagnosis of the disease. From the national statistics available it appears that the number of persons requiring treatment tends to become steadily larger. The public are warned that on the least suspicion advantage should, without delay, be taken of the facilities now available for the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

Infant Mortality.

The deaths of infants under the age of one year numbered 33 (males 21, females 12), eleven more than last year; in 1935 the infant deaths numbered 22, 15 in 1934, 22 in 1933, 23 in 1932, 19 in 1931 and 29 in 1930,

Nineteen of the infant deaths in 1937 were due to congenital debility, malformation, or premature birth, representing nearly 60 per cent. of the total infant deaths.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 63 as compared with a rate of 50 per 1,000 births in 1936, 48 in 1935, 38 in 1934, 51 in 1933, 58 in 1932, 44 in 1931, and 76 in 1930.

The average for the five years 1932-36 was 49.

It is interesting to compare the present district rate, 63 per 1000, with that of the year 1900, when the infant mortality rate was no less than 179 per 1000 births.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1937 was 58.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1937 of infants at stated age periods :—

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks	4 weeks—3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under one year.
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth, &c. ...	11	2	2	1	2	1	...	...	19
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Gastritis ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis and Broncho-Pneumonia...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	5
Other causes	4	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	7
Totals	16	2	2	3	2	4	2	2	33

Net Live Births in the year	legitimate	509	517	Net Infant Deaths in the year	legitimate	33	33
	illegitimate	8			illegitimate	—	

Maternal Mortality.

Under the heading of maternal mortality four deaths were recorded in the rural district in the year 1937—puerperal sepsis 1, other puerperal causes 3, giving a mortality rate, based on live and still-births, of 7·44 per thousand. The average rate for the five years 1932-36 was 4·55.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales in 1937 was 3·11.

Rates of this character, calculated for small areas, are sometimes rather fallacious and one or two fatalities add very considerably to the local death-rate. In the last eight years, only 18 maternal deaths have been recorded in the rural district.

In previous reports I have indicated that this important subject of maternal mortality was receiving the most careful consideration of the National, County, and Local Public Health Authorities. The Midwives Act of 1936, provided that "Local Supervising Authorities" under previous Midwives Acts, i.e., County Councils and County Borough Councils, should prepare Schemes under which a salaried midwifery service should be available for every district.

The Lancashire County Council fully cognisant of the urgent necessity of doing everything in their power to reduce, as far as practicable this lamentable mortality, has put into operation, throughout the Administrative County, a comprehensive Scheme, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health's Department for the following report:—

The Midwives Act, 1936.

Under the provisions of the above Act, the Lancashire County Council is required to provide, either directly, or by arrangement, a domiciliary service of whole-time salaried midwives adequate for the needs of its area. The midwives so employed are available for attendance on patients in their own homes either as midwives or as maternity nurses during childbirth and from time to time during the fourteen days immediately after childbirth.

The main purpose of the Act is to improve the standard of domiciliary midwifery in England and Wales as an important step in the improvement of the maternity services and in the campaign for reducing maternal mortality. At the same time, the whole status of the midwifery profession will be raised by providing adequate salaries and secure prospects for those midwives who enter the new service and by compensating those who retire within a specified period and so reducing the present overcrowding in the ranks of the profession. The Act also provides for the prohibition of maternity nursing by unqualified persons in any area by order of the Minister as soon as he is satisfied that the new service in that area is adequate. In addition provision is made for the periodical attendance at post-certificate courses of all practising midwives.

The Lancashire County Council has provided a domiciliary midwifery service directly for the parishes of Farington, Penwortham, Longton, Hutton, Little Hoole and Much Hoole in the Preston Rural area. The particulars of the salaried midwives appointed to serve this area are given below :—

Mrs. C. Houghton, S.C.M., S.R.N., " Longcroft House," Hall Carr Lane, Longton.	(Arrangements have been made to install telephone).
Mrs. M. L. E. Moore, S.C.M., S.R.N., 16 Lark Avenue, Penwortham.	Telephone No. Preston 83434.

Reliefs in cases of sickness or during off duty and holiday time are provided from adjoining districts.

In addition to providing a service directly for the above parishes an Agreement was made between the Lancashire County Council and the Longton Nursing Association under which the Association agreed to provide a domiciliary midwifery service when called upon for the parishes of Longton, Hutton, Little Hoole and Much Hoole.

A domiciliary service has been provided for the remaining parishes in the Rural district by the Lancashire County Council under arrangements made with District Nursing Associations. Details are here given :—

District Nursing Association.	Area to be served.	Particulars of Nurse.
Bilsborrow -	Barton - Woodplumpton - Goosnargh (part)	Mrs. A. I. Talbot, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., "Glen Lea," Station Lane, Barton. ('phone. Broughton 190.)
Longridge -	Goosnargh (part) Grimsargh - Haighton (part)- Whittingham - Dutton - Ribchester - Hothersall -	Miss M. R. Billington, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., 4 Arndale Road, Longridge. ('phone. Longridge 302).
Broughton -	Haighton (part) - Broughton -	Miss M. E. Johnson, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., "Brynville," Woodplumpton Road, Cadley, Nr. Preston. ('phone Preston 6368).
Lea -	Lea -	Miss E. Johnson, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., "Brynville," Woodplumpton Road, Cadley, Nr. Preston. ('phone Preston (6368).
Mellor, Balderstone and Samlesbury.	Samlesbury - Cuerdale -	Miss I. E. Grundy, Queen's Nurse, S.C.M., Nurse's Home, Branch Road, Mellor, Nr. Blackburn. ('phone Mellor 313).

The fees charged for the services of the County Council Midwives and the Nursing Association Midwives are £1 10s. when acting as midwife and £1 5s. when acting as maternity nurse, i.e., where a doctor is engaged. The fees are reduced by 10/- in the case of contributing members of the Nursing Associations. A fee of 10/- only is charged for attendance at miscarriages. The County Council Scheme provides for a remission of fees in necessitous cases.

I urge most earnestly every expectant mother, in the interest of her own health and that of the unborn babe, to seek, *early* in her pregnancy, *skilled advice*, either through her private medical adviser, or through the facilities now available under the maternity and child welfare services of the Public Health Authorities.

Specialist ante-natal clinics have been established by the County Council in various parts of the County area and at many of the Public Institutions. In this neighbourhood County Clinics exist at Leyland, Bamber Bridge, Longridge and Kirkham, and similar facilities are available at the Preston and County of Lancaster Royal Infirmary, and at the Sharoe Green Hospital. Particulars as to the days and hours of these clinics may be obtained from the County Health Visitors or from the Public Health Officers of the district.

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

Medical Officer of Health—Charles J. Trimble.

Sanitary Inspectors. The present organisation of the Sanitary Department is as follows :—

Chief Sanitary Inspector—H. Collier.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—S. C. Whitehead and J. F. Hayhurst.

As stated above, there are three Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Collier occupying the position of Chief Sanitary Inspector and Engineer, whilst the two remaining have assigned to them half the Rural area, which is divided by the River Ribble, North and South, and for which each Inspector has full control for all duties pertaining to this office as set out in the Sanitary Inspectors' Order.

In addition to supervising the work carried out by the two additional Inspectors, Mr. Collier has charge of the following—New Buildings, Parks and Playing Fields, Water, Sewage and Scavenging.

Acting under him is a Building Inspector, Water Inspector and General Foreman for Scavenging.

This organisation seems to work very well and is yielding what I consider to be very satisfactory results, giving an efficient service in the interests of the public health.

Veterinary Services—I am authorised to call in veterinary assistance when necessary, and advice and help from the County Council's Panel of Veterinary Surgeons can always be relied upon.

Vaccination.—The County Council has provided a Public Vaccinator for the townships south of the Ribble and three Vaccinators for the rural area north of the Ribble :—

Samlesbury Cuerdale	...Dr. D. J. Davies.
Barton Broughton Lea Woodplumpton	...Dr. R. Slater.
Dutton Ribchester Hothersall Grimsargh Haighton Goosnargh Whittingham Ribchester Institution	...Dr. J. Lord.
Farington Penwortham Much Hoole Little Hoole Longton Hutton	...Dr. S. Sharples.

Laboratory Facilities.—As heretofore, the well-equipped laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary is always available for any bacteriological and pathological work required by the rural authority. The examinations carried out there at my request during the year 1937 are set out below.

Record and character of the examinations carried out in 1937 for the Rural District Council at the Pathological Laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary :—

Typhoid	4
Milk inoculation, T.B.	20
,, B. Coli	21
Sputum, Tuberculosis	8
Swabs, Diphtheria	110
,, Haemolytic streptococci	28
Water, Bacteriological Examination ...	3
Others	16
Total	210

For water analysis the County Council's Laboratory, now transferred from Liverpool to the County Offices, Preston, is available. Particulars of these and other water analyses are given under the heading of water supplies.

Ambulance Services.—Efficient ambulance services are available for the rural district. For the greater part of the area the Preston Corporation's ambulance facilities, are, by arrangement, available, whilst for the outlying townships such as Ribchester, Dutton, etc., the Blackburn Corporation service can be called upon. For infectious diseases the necessary transport is provided by the Hospitals.

In addition to the above facilities, a Fire Tender, recently purchased, is convertable to an ambulance, and in extremely urgent cases of illness this vehicle will be available for conveying patients to hospital. Any such requests for this purpose should be made to the Fire Station, Leyland Road, Penwortham, and the charge for conveying persons residing within the Rural District of Preston (South of the Ribble area) will be 5s. For the conveyance of cases outside this area to hospital the charge will be 1/3 per mile.

The Council desire that this ambulance should *not* be called where private ambulances or other means are available, as it will be appreciated that this vehicle, although convertable to an ambulance, is primarily for use as a Fire Tender and as such has to be held in constant readiness, together with its driver, to deal with outbreaks of fire.

Nursing Assistance.—The services of the Lancashire County Nursing Association are available for the inhabitants of the Preston rural area as regards general nursing.

The Nursing Associations at Bilsborough, Broughton, Longton, Lea and Samlesbury also undertake midwifery nursing and in all these areas, owing to the operation of the County Council's midwifery scheme, this class of nursing will doubtless greatly increase. Practically all the District Nurses are now provided with motor cars.

The statement below, kindly supplied by the Superintendent of the County Nursing Association, shows the number of cases and visits paid by the Association's nurses during the year ending March, 1938:—

	Cases.			Visits.
	Midwifery.	Maternity.	General.	
Bilsborough & Barton ...	22	9	258	4,346
Broughton ...	1	6	199	3,838
Longton ...	3	7	107	3,333
Penwortham ...	...	...	168	4,803
Lea ...	7	11	276	4,158
Samlesbury ...	1	1	108	1,284
Farington ...	...	...	41	754
Total ...	34	34	1157	22,516

County Council Nursing Services.—In addition to the above-mentioned service, the County Council Health Visitors and Tuberculosis Nurses carry out extensive visitations in the rural area. Below are given figures relating to the number of visits paid by the County Health Visitors in the rural area during the year 1937 :—

Home Visits.
(Infants under 1 year) :—
No. of first visits 740
No. of re-visits 1122
(Children, 1—5 years of age) :—
No. of visits 732

Ante-Natal Work (Expectant Mothers) :—
No. of first visits 54
No. of re-visits 60

Reports to County Medical Officer of Health :—
Re Insanitary conditions 5

Children Act, 1908, and Children and Young Persons Act, 1932 :—
No. of visits to cases under the above Acts..... 9

Other matters :—
No. of visits to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum 8

For Tuberculosis cases or suspected cases, the County Council's medical and nursing staffs are available, together with the County's sanatoria, hospitals and dispensaries.

Registered Nursing Homes.—There are two registered Nursing Homes in the rural area on the County Council's Register—both at Lea.

Certified Midwives.—There are 10 State certified midwives in practice in this area; 2 County Council midwives; 2 employed by Nursing Associations and 6 independent midwives.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

Set out below is a list of the Institutions to which the population of the rural area has access. The provision is ample and the Institutions embrace a wide diversity of treatment :—

(a) General Medical—Preston & Blackburn Royal Infirmaries
(b) General Surgical " " "
(c) Children—Ethel Hedley Hospital, Windermere
(d) Maternity—Preston Infirmary and Poor Law Hospital, Fulwood
(e) Venereal diseases—County Council scheme available.
(f) Tuberculosis—County Council Tuberculosis Scheme.
(g) Chronic sick—Public Assistance Hospital.
(h) Mental—Whittingham and other County Hospitals
(i) Mental deficiency—Calderstones
(j) Orthopædic—County Council, Biddulph, Staffs.
(k) Ear, Nose and Throat—Preston and Blackburn Royal Infirmaries
(l) Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia—County Council schemes

In addition to the above list there are (1) a Joint Hospital for ordinary infectious diseases and (2) a Joint Hospital for isolation of Small Pox.

Mortuary.—The Rural Council are alive to the necessity of a mortuary North of the Ribble, and during the year strenuous efforts have been made to procure a site, but, up to the present, without success.

Legislation in Force.

The after-named General Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, etc., are in force. The dates at which these provisions became operative are stated :—

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. Came into force 31st March, 1914.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Parts I, III, and IV. So far as they are applicable to a Rural District came into force 1st August, 1893.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907:

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22 to 33, comprised in Part II.

Sections 34 to 46, 48, 49, 50, comprised in Part III.
Sections 52 to 67, comprised in Part IV.

Part V, and Sections 93 and 95, comprised in Part X, came into force 22nd December, 1913.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, comprised in Part II.

Sections 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43 comprised in Part III, came into operation 16th March, 1926.

(*a*) Urban Powers under Section 154, Public Health Act, 1875, to be cited as the Preston Rural (Urban Powers) Order, 1929, dated 26th March, 1929. Came into operation 22nd April, 1929.

(*b*) Urban Powers under the provisions of the Private Street Works Act, 1892, for Penwortham.

This Order may be cited as the Preston Rural (Urban Powers) Order, No. 2, 1929, dated 25th September, 1929, and came into operation 21st October, 1929.

Chicken Pox is also notifiable under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1899.

Section 171, Public Health Act, 1875, incorporating Sections 32 and 33 Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to fires. Came into operation 12th Jan., 1925.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, January 1st, 1934, also Section 2 of the above Act.

The provision of Part IV of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, for the regulation of places ordinarily used for public dancing or music or other public entertainment of the like kind in the contributory places of Barton, Broughton Cuerdale, Dutton, Farington, Goosnargh, Haighton, Hothersall, Hutton, Lea, Little Hoole, Longton, Much Hoole, Penwortham, Ribchester, Samlesbury, Whittingham, Woodplumpton.

This Order came into force 29th July, 1935.

Smoke Nuisance.—The Rural District Council adopted Bye-Laws for the prevention of nuisance by the emission of black smoke which became operative on the 1st February, 1936.

New Legislation in 1937.

Set out below is a list of the main features of public health legislation, Circulars and Orders of 1937.

New Legislation (Public Health) in 1937.

The Milk (Amendment) Act, 1937.

The Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937.

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1937.

No. 35. The Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, dated January 21st, 1937.

No. 78. The Housing Act (Form of Orders and Notices) Regulations, dated January 25th, 1937.

No. 79. The Housing Act (Extinguishment of Public Right of Way) Regulations, dated January 29th, 1937.

No. 80. The Housing Act (Overcrowding and Miscellaneous Forms) Regulations, dated January 29th, 1937.

No. 216. The Housing Act, 1936 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order, dated March 20th, 1937.

No. 271. Shops Regulations, dated April 6th, 1937.

No. 329. Public Health, England (Imported Food) Regulations, dated April 16th, 1937.

No. 555. The Housing Act, 1936 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order (No. 2), dated June 17th, 1937.

No. 768. Factory and Workshop—The First Aid in Factories Order, dated August 10th, 1937.

No. 769. Factory and Workshop—The First Aid Regulations, dated August 10th, 1937.

No. 770. Factory and Workshop—The First Aid Welfare Order, dated August 10th, 1937.

No. 854. The Housing Act, 1936 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order (No. 3), dated September 20th, 1937.

No. 1172. The Housing Act, 1936 (Operation of Overcrowding Provisions) Order (No. 4), dated December 22nd, 1937.

Provisional Rules and Orders.

Public Health (Imported Food) (Amendment) Regulations, dated December 2nd, 1937.

Ministry of Health Publications.

Memos., Circulars, etc.

Circular 1522. Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. April 30th, 1937.

Circular 1591. Housing Act, 1935, Overcrowding Provisions. January 1st, 1937.

Circular 1596. Notification and treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. February 1st, 1937.

Circular 1597. Public Health Act, 1936. Provisions relating to Port Sanitary Authorities, Joint Hospital Boards and Isolation Hospital Committees. February 26th, 1937.

Circular 1600. Public Health Act, 1936. Moveable Dwellings. May 1st, 1937.

Circular 1611. Housing Acts, 1935 and 1936, Housing (Rural Workers) Acts and Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, Interest on Loans, etc. March 22nd, 1937.

Circular 1622. Maternal Mortality. May 7th, 1937.

Circular 1640. Building Bye-Laws. July 12th, 1937.

Circular 1652. Housing Acts, 1935 and 1936, Housing (Rural Workers) Acts and Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, Interest on Loans, etc. August 13th, 1937.

Circular 1666. Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. (Postponement of date of Operation of Regulations). December 7th, 1937.

Final Report of Departmental Committee on the Construction of Flats for the Working Classes. (Chairman, Sir G. W. Humphreys, K.B.E., M.Inst. C.E.) May 20th, 1937.

Food Memorandum 62/Foods. Meat Inspection. Supplementary Memorandum September, 1937.

Housing, House Production, Slum Clearance, etc., England and Wales. Position at March 31st, 1937.

Public Health Act, 1936. Tables of comparison showing (I) the mode in which earlier enactments are dealt with by the Act; (II) The Sections of the Act and corresponding provisions in earlier Acts.

Model Bye-Laws Series.

I. The Removal of House Refuse and the Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools. August, 1937.

IA. Duties in connection with the Removal of House Refuse, etc. August, 1937.

II. For preventing the Occurrence of Nuisance from Snow, Filth, Dust, Ashes and Rubbish; for Preventing the keeping of Animals so as to be prejudicial to Health. August, 1937.

IIA. Removal through streets of Offensive or Noxious Matter or Liquid.

IV. Buildings. July, 1937.

IVD. New Streets.

VIIIA. Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools. October, 1937.

XVI. Fish Frying and Offensive Trades. September, 1937.

XXV. Smoke Abatement. August, 1937.

Public Health and Medical Subjects Report.

No. 79. Cancer—Memorandum on Provision of Radio-Therapeutic Departments in General Hospitals. March, 1937 (by A. B. Smallman, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.D.)

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The paragraphs following deal, as circumstances permit, with the sanitary conditions obtaining in the rural area, and the action taken in regard to the various services during the year under report. The County "Summary Form," appended hereto, covers practically all the health and sanitary activities of a local area.

The country outside Preston is most attractive. Swept by sea and mountain breezes the climate is bracing and healthy, add to these the amenities of good and continuous water supply and light, and transport by rail and bus, plus sewers in some areas, an agreeable picture framed to stimulate and encourage the builder, both private and commercial, to get on with the "job" of putting up houses and this is what has occurred, hence our increased inhabitants and rates.

The rapid urbanisation of some parts of the rural area raises important considerations in regard to some of the sanitary services ; modern developments of communities, urban in character, call for up-to-date and comprehensive schemes of sewage disposal, public cleansing, water supplies, etc. Progress in these respects in this area is recorded on the following pages.

Water Supplies.

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are :—

(a) The Preston Corporation.
(b) The Fulwood Urban District Council.
(c) The Fylde Water Board.
(d) The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests and analyses are periodically made. Results of analyses are set out hereafter.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood, and Preston water. I attach tables setting out the extent of these supplies. The Fylde Water Board are now distributing water in Barton, Woodplumpton, Broughton and Cottam. During 1937 16 new connections were made, and the number of houses supplied by the Board at the end of the year is shown below :—

Woodplumpton (including Catforth)	289	an increase of	10
Barton and Bartle	261	,,	6
Cottam	67	,,	2
Broughton	22	,,	—
	639		16

The here inserted tables give a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several townships (1) North of the Ribble (2) South of the Ribble. Where houses are not receiving a laid on supply the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :—

Townships North of the Ribble.

Townships.	Houses supplied, 1937.	Number of Houses in Township, 1937.
Barton	202	261
Broughton	145	145
Goosnargh	111	291
Grimsargh	207	207
Lea.	969	999
Whittingham	†337	389
Haighton	60	66
Woodplumpton	417	482

† Does not include Whittingham Mental Hospital.

Townships.	Number of premises.		Houses and Farms supplied with water.	
	Farms.	Other Houses.	Farms.	Other Houses.
Ribchester ...	58	361	41	323
Hothersall ...	20	16	18	12
Total ...	78	377	59	335

Other connections—8 Clubs, Schools, etc., 6 watering troughs, 3 garages, 2 mills, 1 workshop, 4 public-houses, 1 Poor Law Institution and 1 store.

Townships South of the Ribble.

Townships.	Houses supplied, 1937.	No. of Inhabited Houses, 1937.
Penwortham	2993	2993
Hutton	343	343
Longton	1083	1083
Much Hoole	191	193
Little Hoole	194	194
Farington	1032	1032

Townships.	Gross No. of Houses in Township.	Gross No. of Farms.	Houses supplied with water.	Farms supplied.
Samlesbury ...	230	77	219	51
Cuerdale ...	3	6	2	6

Outside these figures, five public houses, two schools, one chapel, one sewage works and two paper works are supplied.

I find that the Fulwood Urban District has during the year under review, supplied water from their mains. New supplies in this area and within Fulwood's distributing area are as follows :—

Haighton	3
Broughton	—
Whittingham	3
Goosnargh	2
Grimsargh	22
Lea	14

The number of houses supplied with water during the year 1937 numbered 432, of which 289 were in Penwortham, 67 in Lea, 25 in Farington, 19 in Longton, 14 in Samlesbury, etc.

Extensions to water mains in 1937 were as under :—

Penwortham -	1036 yards.
Hutton - -	290 ,,
Little Hoole -	150 ,,
Farington - -	240 ,,
Lea - - -	255 ,,
Total	1971 ,,

Further details are contained in the Water Inspector's Report which is given in the appendices.

Wells, etc.—The approximate number of houses which rely on wells, springs, streams, etc. is 324.

Analysis of Water Supplies.—Below are set out the results of water examinations made during the year :

University of Manchester.

Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine.

Public Health Laboratory,
Manchester.

Water—Chemical Examination.

Authority—Fylde Water Board. Lab. Ref. No. W.C.B. 5806

Date of Collection 17/6/37. Date of Arrival 18/6/37.

Description of Sample—Filtered water
Stocks Reservoir.

Numerical Results expressed in parts per 100,000.

Colour—Green. Turbidity—None. Smell—None.

Oxygen Absorbed (4 hours at 27° c.)	... 0·088	Action on Lead (24 hours)	... 0·15
Free and Saline Ammonia (as HN_3)	.. 0·0016	Metals	 Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia (as NH_3)	... 0·0054		
Nitrous Nitrogen (as NH_3)	... Nil.		
Nitric Nitrogen (as NH_3)	.. Nil.		
Chlorides (as Cl)	... 1·1		
Hardness, Clarke's Method.	Temporary 2·5		
	Permanent 2·8		
	Total ... 5·3		
Reaction, pH	... 8·0		

June 29th, 1937.

D. G. EVANS.

Water—Bacteriological Examination.

Authority—Fylde Water Board. Lab. Ref. No. W.B. 11206.

Date of Collection 17/6/37. Date of Arrival 17/6/37.

Description of sample—Filtered water.
Sampling taps in laboratory,
Stocks filter house.

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar	Number of colonies per c.c. of water
in 3 days at 22° c. ...	2
in 2 days at 37° c. ...	0

Bacteria associated with sewage or fæcal pollution	Quantity of water in which these bacteria were	
	found	not found
Bacillus coli ...	—	100 c.c.

Probable number of coli-aerogenes bacteria per 100 c.c. of water From Mc.Crady's Tables, Ministry of Health, 1934.	0

Date, 28/6/37. D. A. BARDSLEY.

County Laboratory, County Offices, Preston.

4th January, 1937.

Sample of water received from Preston R.D.C., 22nd day of December, 1937.

Results expressed in parts per 100,000 :—

Mark or denomination of sample.	Preston Corporation Water. Water sample 1/37 CH.
Total Solids in Solution	7·2
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 minutes	0·052
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	0·103
Ammonia	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·004
Nitrogen as Nitrates...	0·019
,, ,, Nitrites...	Nil.
Combined Chlorine	1·0

This water is, in its present condition, fit for drinking and for general use.

J. R. STUBBS, County Analyst.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In the rural area there are five sewage disposal works, viz: Farington, Ribchester, Penwortham, Grimsargh and a small outfall works at Broughton. Everything is done to maintain them in a satisfactory condition. In the parishes above-mentioned the combined system is in vogue; in other parishes a septic tank for each house.

Extensions of sewers during the year were as follows:— 30 yards of 15", 45 yards of 12", 75 yards of 9" and 200 yards of 6".

Grimsargh.—Mr. H. B. Ward, Consulting Engineer, has in hand the preparation of a new sewerage scheme for this parish. Difficulties in obtaining a convenient and suitable site have delayed matters, but this has now been overcome and the scheme is proceeding.

Lea.—The question of a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for this Township has been under the consideration of a special Sub-Committee, and there is every probability that their report will be submitted at an early date.

Longton, Hutton, &c.—I feel it my duty to draw attention once more to the deplorable conditions as regards sewage disposal in this important part of the rural area. As I have commented before, in the interests of the health of the population in these area, an efficient system of sewerage and sewage disposal is an absolute necessity. At present nothing comes between the houses and cottages and the roadside ditches and small streams except small septic tanks. As I have remarked in previous reports the urbanisation and industrial development in rural areas call for a modern system of sewerage and sewage disposal. The tank system is right out-of-date; on "washing days" with the greatest flow of waste water the bacterial energy of these small receptacles is destroyed. I repeat most emphatically that this area should be sewered and the sewage treated scientifically. The district is growing, perhaps not very rapidly, in places, but it is extending, and each new house aggravates the situation.

Rivers and Streams.

The Ribble Watershed Joint Committee has jurisdiction in regard to river and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

Closet Accommodation.

At the end of 1937 the following was the position in the rural district as regards sanitary conveniences :—

No. of Fresh water closets	6556
,, Pail closets	301
,, Movable ashbins	7167
,, Privy middens	2395

The old bog closets and the pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas. The Township of Ribchester has been surveyed in regard to the closet accommodation, and it is the intention to deal with this question in the near future. In 1937 eleven pail closets were converted to the water carriage system ; 496 new W.C's were provided, including those installed at new houses erected during the year. In the last five years 733 pail closets and 30 privy closets have been abolished. The Rural District Council assist in the conversion of these unsatisfactory conveniences to the water carriage system by contributing in some cases the full cost of conversion and half-cost in other instances. All new houses are on the water carriage system.

Public Cleansing and Scavenging.

Twelve Parishes of the rural area are now scavenged, two Parishes having weekly collections and ten fortnightly. The work is carried out by direct labour. Refuse disposal is by means of controlled tipping, five tips are in operation. The extent of the work carried out is stated below :—

No. of Houses cleared.	No. of Loads.	No. of Tons removed.
7466	3399	6300

The system of public cleansing is, in my opinion well organised and efficiently carried out. From time to time men are sent away to be trained in the best methods of disposing of refuse.

The Township of Barton was included in the cleansing scheme from the 1st of April, 1937, and the inclusion of other areas is under consideration.

The Townships now covered by the Council's scavenging operations are :—North of the Ribble : Broughton, Barton, Grimsargh, Lea, Whittingham and Ribchester ; South of the Ribble : Farington, Hutton, Little Hoole, Longton, Much Hoole and Penwortham.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The supervision and control of the sanitary services in this rural area, with its 50,469 statute acres and a population of 33,360 scattered in 19 different Townships is no small task. It is not generally realised outside the local authority that the public health services of the present time embrace such a wide range, or that these services are absolutely essential to the health and well-being of the community. The improved sanitary conditions of recent years, better amenities and more comfort, doubtless have contributed to the general improvement in the health of the people and the reduction in the sickness and mortality rates. The expenditure may be considerable, but the higher standard of health now obtaining is a tremendous set off against that expenditure; less sickness, healthier standards of living, greater comfort and increased longevity cannot be reckoned in terms of £ s. d., but in my opinion they justify the amount of money spent by Local Authorities in their public health activities.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Collier) which is appended again shows a vast amount of work accomplished during the year; inspections and re-inspections totalled 5671; sanitary defects at dwelling-houses remedied 88; milk samples taken for analysis 513; disinfection after cases of infectious disease 99, and numerous other matters referred to in the succeeding paragraphs.

Bakehouses.—Frequent visits are paid to the 24 bakehouses on the Register; these premises are on the whole kept clean. Twenty-four notices to hot limewash were served.

Slaughterhouses, twelve in number—2 registered, 10 licensed—were kept in good order. The amount of unsound food seized and destroyed is given later under the heading of Food Control.

Factories and Workshops—There are 101 factories and workshops on the Register; 54 inspections were made. Notices required, 29.

Canal Boats Act.—Five boats were inspected; each complied in all respects with the regulations.

Anthrax—Three cases were dealt with, one each at Woodplumpton, Lea and Ribchester.

Schools.

The elementary schools number twenty-eight, distributed as to sixteen north and twelve south of the Ribble. Our rural schools are a mixed quantity, some are undoubtedly good, others are fair and usable—a few should be replaced.

The water supplies are with a few exceptions laid on from the general supply. Office accommodation—mostly water carriage and few pails. The schools are well cared for, and so far as my observation goes the buildings are clean. The cleanliness of the schools much depends on the structure of the playing yards, cinders and gravel create dust in summer and mud in winter. The ventilation of class-rooms leaves a good deal to be desired.

During the present year it is the intention to make a thorough inspection of every school and prepare a detailed sanitary report thereon.

I am indebted to the Director of Education for the County for the following notes :—

School Accommodation.

Broughton-in-Preston.—Consideration is now being given to the question of the acquisition of a site for a proposed Senior Council School.

Lea.—The Local Committee have recommended a site for the proposed Junior and Infants' Council School at Lea, and the County Architect is at present carrying out the necessary negotiations.

Penwortham.—Consideration is now being given to the question of the acquisition of a site for the proposed Senior Council School.

The final plans in respect of the proposed Junior and Infants' Council School at Penwortham have been approved by the Committee and the Architects are at present proceeding with the preparation of the quantities upon which tenders will be invited.

Little Hoole, Walmer Bridge.—The Little Hoole Junior and Infants' Council School was opened for instruction as from the 30th September, 1937 ; the Little Hoole—Walmer Bridge Council School was closed as from the 29th September, 1937.

Farington.—The preliminary plans in respect of the proposed Junior and Infants' Council School at Farington have been approved by the Board of Education and the final plans will be placed before the next meeting of the Committee.

Town Planning.

The rural district of Preston is situate within the area of two Regional Town Planning Committees, Ribchester, Hothersall and Dutton being in the area of the North East (Region No. 1) Joint Town Planning Committee, and the remainder of the rural area is within the area of the Preston and District Joint Committee. Details of the action taken during the year are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Parks and Playing Fields.

Considerable activity has been displayed by the Council in the direction of providing playing fields. Four sites have been equipped as children's playgrounds, and lay-out plans prepared for five other sites. Steps to purchase two additional sites are proceeding and negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of land in three further parishes. Details set out in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Housing.

Building progress during the year under report has been carried out in the district mainly by private enterprise. The number of new houses in 1937 was 485—by private persons 478, by the Local Authority 7. Penwortham heads the list with 292 new dwellings, followed by Lea with 75 houses.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year 1937:—

(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*)) 485

(i) By the Local Authority—7

(ii) By other Local Authorities—Nil.

(iii) By other bodies and persons—478.

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

(i) By the Local Authority—7

(ii) By other bodies or persons—Nil.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—119.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—452.

(2) (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925—109.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—290.

(3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—17.

4) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—79.

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices—

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—41.

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners—Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—10.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after formal notices :—

(a) By owners—Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

(c).—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—16.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—9.

(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made—Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit—Nil.

Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year—67.

(2) Number of families dwelling therein—68.

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein—415.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year—Nil.

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year—11.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases—81.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

This section of Public Health work is carefully operated. General action in regard to food sampling is with the County Medical Officer of Health, under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act. All foods exposed for sale are examined. A table is here given recording the work carried out by the Inspectors drawn from the County Constabulary :—

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act.

Samples taken during the year 1937 in the Preston Rural District.

Township.	Milk.	Beef Sausage.	Pepper.	Potted Shrimps.	Fruit Salad.	Gravy Browning.	Pickles.	Grape Fruit Butter.	Lemon Curd.	Strawberry Jam.	Turpentine.	Coffee.	Rice.	Camphorated Oil.	Olive Oil.	Custard Powder.	Plum Jelly.	Potted Meat.	Pearl Barley.	Cream of Tartar.	Butter.	Lancashire Cheese	Sugar.	Sardines.	Table Jelly.	Shredded Suet.	Boracic Acid.	Ground Ginger.	Sauce.	Baking Powder.	Tincture of Iodine.	Totals.
Penwortham ...	23	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Longton ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	5
Much Hoole ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Little Hoole ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Howick ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hutton ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	6
Farington ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Goosnargh ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Barton ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whittingham ...	5	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Broughton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lea ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Woodplumpton ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ribchester ...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Dutton ...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Haighton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	62	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	98

Milk Supply.

The maintenance of a satisfactory supply of pure and safe milk is of fundamental importance. The gradual improvement which has taken place during recent years in the condition of milk producing premises and in the method of production has, I think, been maintained during the year. In my inspections I have noted that cows are much cleaner; a vast improvement in grooming is noticeable, the cows' udders and the milker's hands have been well washed before milking, but in some quarters there still seems to be an objection on the part of the milkers to wearing overalls and caps. If farmers and their assistants would conscientiously exercise a little more personal effort, no dirty milk should be put upon the market; milk of Grade A standard could be produced in every shippon, and, in my opinion, no milk below this standard should be issued for public consumption.

Farms on the Rural Authority's Register number 647, and, in addition, there are 117 registered retail purveyors. Inspections under the Milk and Dairies Order numbered 1175, and 58 notices were found necessary. The approximate number of cows in the rural district is 12,251.

Milk samples.—421 samples of milk were taken by your Sanitary Officers and subjected to the minit test; 318 were found clean, 32 very slightly contaminated, 51 slightly contaminated, and 20 were dirty. Twenty-one samples were taken from retailers and sent for examination for the presence of B Coli: 20 were negative, 1 positive.

During the year 1937 the County Public Health Department received 42 notifications, in most cases from County Boroughs, that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural District. In each case one of the County Veterinary Surgeons examined the animals at the farms concerned and during the course of these investigations obtained 247 samples of milk and examined 1174 cows. Twenty-six animals giving tuberculous milk were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

At the 18th January, 1938, four of the investigations had not been completed.

Milk in Schools scheme.—The children attending 28 schools in the Preston Rural District received daily supplies of milk under the County scheme during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1937. The milk is obtained from sources approved by the County Council and all the supplies

are examined each quarter for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Of the 71 samples of milk examined four disclosed the presence of tubercle bacilli and immediate steps were taken to have a veterinary inspection of the herds concerned. The milk from suspected animals was withheld from the general supply until the affected cows were discovered and slaughtered, and the supply again reported to be free of tubercle bacilli.

Meat Inspection, Slaughtering.—Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 185 notices of intention to slaughter were received, and the following animals were inspected :—cattle 406, sheep 812, pigs 962.

Unsound food.—The approximate weight of unsound food condemned as unfit for human consumption was 4,200 lbs. A detailed list is contained under the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Tuberculosis (Animals) Order, 1925.

During the year 70 cases were reported under this Order in the rural district, 40 by owners, 24 by the County Medical Officer's Department and 6 by the County Veterinary Surgeons. Seventy animals were slaughtered. The post-mortem examinations showed : tuberculosis of the udder 27, tuberculous emaciation 34, other tubercular affections 9. The amount of compensation paid amounted to £274 2s. 6d., less salvage £134 12s. 2d.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The tables on pages 40 and 41 show the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1937, and the number of cases in each of the rural parishes.

Scarlet fever contributed 66 cases against 42 in the year 1936. Farington was most affected with 20 cases, Penwortham had 11 cases and Goosnargh 8. Of the 66 cases 53 were isolated in hospital.

Diphtheria gave rise to 11 cases as compared with 29 in the preceding 12 months.

Enteric fever 4 cases : 2 in Longton and one each in Broughton and Whittingham.

Bacillary Dysentery.—The outbreak of this disease which commenced in February, 1936, in the Whittingham Mental Hospital continued throughout 1937, some 115 further notifications being received.

"Notifiable" Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.													Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all ages.	Years.													Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15–20	20–35	35-45	45-65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever ...	66	...	1	2	8	6	28	8	3	6	2	2	...	1	53	1
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	11	2	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	...	...	2	...	2	10	1
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	1	2	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	9	6	3	23	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...														All forms		
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	3	2	...	1	...
Chicken-pox ...	12	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bacillary Dysentery ...	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	23	23	47	19	...	...	...
Undulant Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	249	2	1	2	8	8	42	11	8	44	38	60	25	...	67	2

Above figures include the following cases notified from Whittingham Mental Hospital:—
Scarlet Fever 3; Typhoid Fever 1; Erysipelas 4; Ac. Pneumonia 8; Bacillary Dysentery 115.

The two tables show the distribution of infectious outbreaks and the number of cases in each parish, and deal with the age limits and total numbers of different diseases indicating removals to hospital, and deaths if any :—

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1937, and for comparison the totals of the four preceding years are also given :—

Townships.	Scarlet Fever.		Enteric Fever.		Diphtheria.		Erysipelas.	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Farington ...	20	16	...	...	1	1	...	...
Longton ...	7	6	2	2	3	3	...	...
Much Hoole)								
Little Hoole)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Penwortham ...	11	7	...	...	4	3	2	1
Samlesbury ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	3	3	...	...	2	2	1	...
Goosnargh ...	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broughton ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Barton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Whittingham ...	3	...	1	...	...	...	4	...
Ribchester ...	13	13	...	...	1	1	1	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1937 Total ...	66	53	4	2	11	10	9	1
1936 Total ...	42	37	...	...	29	28	24	1
1935 Total ...	46	39	1	1	24	17	18	...
1934 Total ...	99	80	1	...	7	5	27	...
1933 Total ...	108	94	1	...	10	9	6	...

*Includes notifications from the Mental Hospital, Whittingham, but excludes, under heading of "cases removed," cases isolated in Whittingham Mental Hospital.

The following may be mentioned as instances of special action taken in the efforts to control outbreaks of infectious diseases :—

Influenza.—In January Influenza was rife practically throughout the rural area and affected most seriously the attendances of children at the schools. The Rural Council authorised the printing of leaflets for circulation throughout the districts. Schools were closed for varying periods at Goosnargh, Barton, Lea, Longton, Much Hoole, Hoole, Penwortham, Middleforth, Woodplumpton, Cottam, Catforth, Broughton and Howick. Deaths during the year attributed to this disease numbered 15.

Streptococcal Sorethroats.—This complaint necessitated special visits in the early part of June to the Barton and Grimsargh C. E. Schools. Close contact in school was doubtless the cause of many cases.

Whooping Cough.—Some 15 cases of Whooping Cough occurred amongst the infants of the Woodplumpton C. E. School in June. Printed instructions were provided.

Chicken Pox.—This disease gave rise to a little trouble at the Farington Endowed School in June, and at the Longton R. C. School in July.

Measles.—A few cases occurred amongst the scholars of the infant department of Farington New School on July 1st necessitated closure for a short period.

Paratyphoid Fever.—Two cases of Paratyphoid were notified from Walmer Bridge on August 7th and 11th ; one case in Broughton Village on September 6th and one case at Whittingham. No definite origin of the disease was ascertained. One case was removed to the Preston Royal Infirmary and died there.

Undulant Fever.—In November a case of this disease was reported from a farm house at Catforth, and careful investigations were promptly carried out.

School closures owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases.—The undermentioned closures were made in 1937 by the County School Medical Officer :—

School.	Disease Prevalent.	Period of Closure.
Barton C.E. ...	Influenza.	Jan. 18/29
Goosnargh—Whitechapel Council ...	do.	do.
Barton R.C. ...	do.	Jan. 20/29
Lea R.C.	do.	Jan. 21/29
Walmer Bridge Council	do.	Jan. 25/29
Goosnargh—(Oliverson's) C. E.	do.	Jan. 25—Feb 1.
Longton, St. Oswald's R.C.	do.	Jan. 26/29
Longton—New Longton	do.	Jan. 27—Feb. 5
Woodplumpton—Catforth St. Roberts	do.	do.
Woodplumpton C.E.	do.	Jan. 28—Feb. 5
Cottam R.C. ...	do.	do.
Catforth Council ...	do.	do.
Lea Endowed C.E. ...	do.	Feb. 1/5
Broughton—Fernyhalgh R.C. ...	do.	Feb. 3/12
Hoole C. E. . .	do.	Jan. 25—Feb. 5
Penwortham—Middleforth ...	do.	Feb. 2/9
Penwortham—Cop Lane C. E. ...	Influenza and Sore throats.	Feb. 3/9
Longton Council ...	Influenza.	Jan. 25/29
Howick C. E. ...	do.	Feb. 10/12
Farington New ...	Measles.	July 6/23
Farington New (Infants)	Scarlet Fever.	Oct. 12/19
Goosnargh—Whitechapel Council ...	Measles.	Oct. 21—Nov. 8

Tuberculosis.

The table below gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0— 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1— 5 ...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...
5—10 ...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
10—15 ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
15—20 ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
20—25 ...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...
25—35 ...	4	8	...	2	3	2	...	1
35—45 ...	8	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
45—55 ...	3	2	2	...	2	1	...	...
55—65 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	17	12	8	9	7	4	2	3
†Totals ...	29		17		11		5	

† Includes Notifications from Whittingham Mental Hospital viz. : Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 11 cases. Non-Pulmonary, one.

The following numbers are submitted as representing the notified and ascertained cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the years :—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1930	33	 21
1931	16	 13
1932	26	 12
1933	36	 10
1934	25	 18
1935	35	 21
1936	40	 10
1937	29	 17

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis in the administrative county is in the hands of the Lancashire County Council, who have a staff of consultant tuberculosis officers and tuberculosis health visitors working from a number of dispensaries in the County. Tuberculous patients in the rural district are served by the County Branch Dispensary at 12 Walton's Parade, Preston. Full co-operation exists with the tuberculosis officers (Dr. G. H. Leigh and Dr. F. C. S. Bradbury) covering the area around Preston.

The following statement (supplied by the Central Tuberculosis Officer for the County) shows the action taken in regard to patients in the rural district during 1937 :—

	Adults.	Children.	Total
No. of patients granted :—			
Sanatorium treatment	6	—	6
Pulmonary Hospital treatment...	6	—	6
General or special Hospital treatment	6	8	14
Artificial light treatment ...	5	6	11
General dispensary supervision, with provision of special nourishment	9	6	15
General dispensary supervision or treatment	78	24	102
No. of patients under treatment on 31st December, 1937	81	32	113
The 113 patients under treatment were classified as under :—			
Pulmonary	52	3	55
Non-Pulmonary	27	29	56
Combined (pulmonary and non-pulmonary)	2	—	2
No. of patients taken from register as recovered	2	2	4

Public Health Act, 1925.—No action required under Section 62.

Health Education.—The following lectures on health subjects were given by the County Council organising lecturer :

District.	Date.	Type of Audience.	No.
Catforth.	8th Dec., 1937.	Women's Institute Members.	20
Goosnargh.	21st Jan., 1938.	Mixed & Women's Institute Members	37

During the last quarter of 1937 and the first quarter of 1938, illustrated lectures were given by Miss C. A. Rhodes, County Organising Lecturer for Health Education, to Members of Women's Institutes and the general public in the Preston rural area. The subject taken at the Catforth meeting was "Family Health" which included Hygiene, the principles of dietetics and the importance of rest and exercise.

At the Goosnargh Women's Institute lecture, Miss Rhodes pointed out the facilities and urged the use of the Public Health Services in order to prevent sickness and maintain good health.

During the year all printed instructions issued by the Ministry of Health regarding Public Health matters were duly distributed in accordance with the official directions. The cost of printing was met by the County Council.

The following Reports are appended :—

(a) Sanitary Inspector's.

(b) Building Inspector's

(c) Water Inspector's

(d) Summary Form issued by the County Public Health Department.

(e) Report on Factories and Workshops.

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1938.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

Inspections	3506
Re-inspections	1022
Other visits	1143
Informal Notices served	58
Statutory Notices served	1

Infectious Diseases.

Disinfection has been carried out in the following 99 cases of infectious diseases :—

Scarlet Fever	56
Diphtheria	16
Tuberculosis deaths	10
Tuberculosis removals	10
Cancer death	2
Paratyphoid fever	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis death	1

In addition 2 houses have been fumigated for vermin, and Stydd Manor School, Ribchester, was twice fumigated following outbreaks of Scarlet Fever.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Pails converted into W.C's.	11
,, New W.C's.	496
This figure includes the W.C's. provided at new houses erected during the year.	
,, New closet pails provided	11

Scavenging.

12 parishes of the Rural Area are now scavenged. 2 Parishes having a weekly collection and 10 fortnightly. The work is carried out by direct labour, three 30 cwt. Ford Loaders, and a Karrier Colt are employed in the collection. We have also a spare Karrier Colt in case of breakdown.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping. Five tips are in operation and trained men are employed to carry out the work.

I give below details of the work for the year 1937 :—

Number of houses cleared	7466
Number of loads to tips	3399
Estimated weight of refuse removed, in tons.	6300
Number of miles covered in collection.....	31595
Petrol used in gallons	3804

The Township of Barton was included in the Scheme from the 1st April, 1937, and the Committee are to consider the inclusion of additional areas during the Financial Year, 1938-39.

Other Sanitary Defects dealt with.

Defective roofs	1
Defective floors.....	4
Defective Closet Pails	11
Dampness	5
Want of ashtins	13
Yard Paving.....	1
Ventilation	4
Insanitary Drainage.....	10
Defective sink waste pipes	9
Miscellaneous	29
Defective gutters	1

Sewerage.

The following extensions of sewers have been carried out :—

4 inch sewer	Nil.
6 ,, ,, ...	200 yards
9 ,, ,, ...	75 ,,
12 ,, ,, ...	45 ,,
15 ,, ,, ...	30 ,,

Factories and Workshops.

There are 101 Factories and Workshops on the Registers, and their condition is satisfactory. 54 Inspections have been made. 5 notices have been served.

Bakehouses.

There are 24 Bakehouses on the Register. Frequent visits are made to these places and they are on the whole kept clean. 24 notices to hot lime-wash have been served.

Canal Boats Acts.

5 Canal Boats have been inspected and each was found to comply in all respects with the regulations.

Petroleum Acts.

There have been 86 new licences granted for storing petrol during the year.

Shops Act, 1934.

There have been 14 inspections under the above Act. and all were found to comply with the Sanitary Provisions over which the Council have jurisdiction.

Anthrax.

Three cases were notified :—

1 case at Woodplumpton.
1 cases at Lea.
1 case at Ribchester.

The premises were visited, and in each case the burning of the carcase and disinfection under Police supervision was found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Swine Fever.

No cases were notified.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk supply—Action taken with regard to :—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915 ; the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. The following samples of milk were taken and subjected to the minit sediment test for dirt with the following results :—

No. of samples taken	421
,, ,, found to be clean	318
,, ,, ,, very slightly contaminated	32
,, ,, ,, slightly contaminated	51
,, ,, ,, dirty	20

Milk from Schools.

The following samples were taken and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory at the Preston Royal Infirmary :—

71 samples for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Results. 3 positive, 68 negative.

The County Medical Officer of Health was notified of the positive results.

In addition to the above, the County Public Health Department received 42 Notifications, in most cases from County Boroughs, that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural District. In each case one of the County Veterinary Surgeons examined the animals at the farms concerned, and during the course of these investigations obtained 247 samples of milk and examined 1174 cows. Twenty-six animals giving tuberculous milk were reported for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

21 samples have been taken from retailers in the district for the presence of B. Coli and tubercle bacilli.

Results. The B. Coli content ranged from absent in 1c.c. to present in 0·001 c.c.

One positive, 20 negative. The positive result was notified to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Slaughter Houses and Inspections.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 :—

45 licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

We have 2 registered and 10 licensed slaughter houses, and all are in good order.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations we received 185 notices of intention to slaughter. and inspected the following animals :—

Cattle	406
Sheep	812
Pigs	962
	2180

The following was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Tuberculosis—1 whole beast and all organs.
59 beast plucks
43 beast heads and tongues.
12 beast livers.
2 forequarters of pork.
59 pigs' plucks
95 pigs' heads.
1 pig carcase and organs.
1 pig liver.

Other Diseases—Beasts sirloin, aitch bone, rumps and flanks for bruising.
1 beasts' pluck for parasites.
2 beasts' livers for parasites.
4 beasts' livers for cirrhosis.
1 beasts' pluck for pneumonia.

2 beasts' livers for angioma.
2 beasts' livers for necrosis.
1 beast's liver for cloudy swellings.
16 pigs' plucks for cirrhosis.
4 pigs' plucks for pneumonia.
3 pigs' lungs and hearts for pericarditis.
1 pig's pluck for cloudy swellings.
2 pigs carcases for fevered flesh.
2 legs of pork for bruising.
1 pig carcase for bruising and oedema.
1 sheep liver for cirrhosis.

Approximate total weight 4200 lbs.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

We have 647 farms on our registers, and 117 registered retail purveyors. There have been 1175 inspections under the above Order and 58 notices have been served.

Sewage Disposal Works.

There are five disposal works in the Rural Area, and everything is being done to maintain them in a satisfactory manner.

Grimsargh.

Mr. H. B. Ward, Consulting Engineer, of Liverpool, is still engaged on the preparation of a new Scheme for this Parish. There has been considerable delay due to the difficulty in obtaining a site for disposal works. This has now been arranged and the preparation of the Scheme is proceeding.

Lea.

The Public Health Committee have appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the question of a Scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for this Parish. Several meetings have been held and it is intended to make recommendations to the full Committee at an early date.

Longton, Hutton, etc.

The Scheme which was prepared some years ago for this area is still in abeyance.

Town Planning.

The Rural District is situate within the area of two Regional Town Planning Committees. The parishes of Ribchester, Hothersall and Dutton being in the area of the North East (Region No. 1) Joint Town Planning Committee, and the remainder of the Rural District is that of the Preston and District Regional Joint Town Planning Committee.

Interim Development Order, 1933.

408 applications to develop have been considered during the year with the following results:—

Permission granted	299
Permission granted subject to conditions ...	98
Refused	11

It will be seen that there has been considerable activity in this department, and the small percentage of refusals is largely due to the applicants obtaining information before the submission of plans.

The two Regional schemes have made considerable progress during the year. The Joint Committees and the Officer's Sub-committee have met regularly.

Parks and Playing Fields.

There has been considerable activity in this department during the year.

The following sites have been acquired, laid out with children's playground equipment, planted and are ready for opening:—

Queensway	5 acres
Farington Lodge	5·5 ,,
Barton	5 ,,
Broughton	5 ,,
	20·5 acres

The following sites have been acquired, and lay-out plans prepared, but work has not yet commenced:—

New Longton	9·085 acres
Hurst Grange	13·000 ,,
Tardy Gate	5·322 ,,
Little Hoole	3·886 ,,
Much Hoole	5·151 ,,
	36·444 acres

Loan Sanction has been obtained with respect to the following sites, and completion of purchase is proceeding :—

Lea ...	...	...	16·500 acres
Grimsargh	...	...	5·782 „
			22·282 acres

Negotiations are in progress for the acquisition of sites at Ingol, Woodplumpton and Longton.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Report of Building Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1937.

The table below shows the number and situation of new houses, which were erected :—

Parish.	Dwelling houses erected.
Barton	6
Broughton	1
Farington...	25
Goosnargh	2
Grimsargh	21
Haighton	1
Hutton	11
Lea	75
Little Hoole	1
Longton	18
Much Hoole	2
Penwortham	292
Ribchester	4
Samlesbury	15
Whittingham	—
Woodplumpton	11
TOTAL	485

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of the above houses :—

Inspection of Site	576
Inspection of Foundations ...	396*
Inspection of Drains	956
Inspection on Completion ...	622
Total ...	2550

* This figure is below the number of houses erected, but is accounted for by the fact that most of the houses are either in pairs or blocks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Building Inspector.

Report on Water Supply.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a report on the work executed with regard to the Water Supply of the Rural District.

During the year 1937 the number of connections show an increase, and the number of extensions a decrease compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures :

Connections	1936 –	411 yards
„	1937—	423 „
Extension of Mains	1936—2282	„
„ „ „	1937—1971	„

The number of houses supplied with water during the year 1937 is as follows :—

Penwortham	289
Hutton	11
Longton	19
Little Hoole	1
Much Hoole	2
Farington	25
Lea...	67
Samlesbury	14
Ribchester	4
Hothersall	—

In addition to the above, connections have been made to the following :—

Penwortham ...	2 Lock-up Shops
Hutton	Tap on Skid Track
Little Hoole ...	Tap for Poultry
Farington ...	Tap for Poultry
Ribchester ...	Cattle Trough
Lea	Tap in Shippon

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows :—

Penwortham	...Off Liverpool Road	...114	yards of	4″ Iron.
	Queenways Close	...164	„	3″ „
	Howick Park Avenue	... 70	„	3″ Everite
	Priory Crescent	...123	„	3″ Iron
	Pembury Avenue	...101	„	3″ „
	Giller Fold	... 80	„	3″ „
	Giller Fold	...123	„	3″ Everite
	Flag Lane	...164	„	3″ Iron
	Flag Lane	... 40	„	3″ Everite
	Bank Parade	... 27	„	3″ „
	Park Avenue	... 30	„	3″ „
Hutton	...Off Royalty Lane	...190	„	3″ Iron
	Broad Oak Lane	...100	„	3″ Everite
Little Hoole	...Moss Lane (Re-laying)	150	„	3″ Everite
Farington	...Near Moss' Mill	... 70	„	3″ Iron
	Parker Lane	...100	„	3″ „
	Stanley Road	... 70	„	3″ „
Lea	...Elm Avenue	...164	„	3″ „
	Queensway	... 36	„	3″ „
	Off Victoria Park Rd.	55	„	3″ „

SUMMARY.

Penwortham	1036 yards
Hutton	290 „
Little Hoole	150 „
Farington	240 „
Lea	255 „
TOTAL ...	1971 yards

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.

SUMMARY.

Statistics, 1937.

(See body of Report)

1.—Social Conditions of the Area.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area: The social conditions do not alter nor do the occupations of the resident population. There are a few cotton mills left. The production of milk and poultry farming occupy important positions. There is considerable industry in market gardening.

Extent of unemployment: No definite figures as to unemployment, but in the old cotton areas there must be many out of work.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—All employment available is of a healthy character.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significent influence on the health or physique of children or adults—There is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health of children or adults.

2.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority—

Medical Officer of Health—Dr. C. J. Trimble.

Is he a whole or part time Officer of the local authority—Part time.

Any other public appointments held by him?—M.O.H. of Urban District of Fulwood.

Is he in private practice?—No.

Sanitary Inspectors—Harry Collier, Sydney Charles Whitehead and James Frederick Hayhurst.

Are they whole or part time Officers?—Whole.

Veterinary Inspector (any appointment or arrangement by the Local Authority)—No.

If occasional inspection only is carried out, under what circumstances do these inspections take place (e.g., at the request of the M.O.H., &c.)?—M.O.H. has power to ask Veterinary Officer to make inspection.

Any other Specialised Inspector (e.g. Food Inspector)?—No.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, &c.—None.

Ambulance facilities :—

(*a*) For infectious cases—Isolation Hospital.
(*b*) Non-infectious and accident cases—Preston County Borough, and Fire Station, Penwortham (emergency cases only.)
(*c*) Maternity patients—Preston County Borough. All conveyed by motor

Is there in your district :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; Ante-natal Clinic; Day Nursery; School Clinic; Orthopædic Clinic; Artificial Light Clinic. Provided for in County Schemes.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for ?—

Unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children?—No.

Health Education :—

Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment? (*e.g.*, health week, special lectures, &c.)—By County Council.

New legislation and date of operation—See Report.

3.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water supply: Source—From Preston Corporation, Manchester Corporation, Fylde Water Board, Fulwood U.D.C.

Is supply satisfactory? (*a*) in quality—Yes; (*b*) in quantity—Yes.

Constant or intermittent—Constant.

Possibilities of contamination—None.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination—Action when necessary.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action?—No.

If piped supply, state if water has been controlled by bacteriological examination—No. of examinations—1. Result, satisfactory. Chemical analyses—Results, satisfactory.

Approximate No. of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, &c.—324.

Have these waters been analysed during the year?—Yes and found satisfactory.

Nature of extensions during the year—1971 yards of water mains.

Drainage and Sewerage—Sewage disposal works, method of treatment :

Outfall works at Farington, Ribchester, Penwortham, Grimsargh, and a small outfall works at Broughton. In these Parishes we have the combined system and in the other Parishes a septic tank is provided for each house.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system ?—350 yards of sewers.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, &c.—Carried out when and where necessary.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken to check the pollution of streams—Supervised by the Ribble Joint Committee.

Closet accommodation at the end of 1937 :—

Privy middens : No. of middens—2,395. No. of closets attached to these middens—2,395 Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres ? No. Only in scattered areas. No. of pail closets—301. No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens) Nil. No. of movable ashbins—7,167. No. of houses on water carriage system—6,556. No. of fresh water closets, 6556.—No. of waste water closets—Nil.

Conversions—		During year 1937.	During 5 years 1932—1936.
No. of privy closets	To fresh w.c.s' ...	—	30
	To waste w.c.'s...	—	—
	To pails, &c. ...	—	—
No. of pail closets	To fresh w.c.'s ...	11	733
	To waste w.c 's...	—	—
No. of waste w.c's. to fresh w.c's. ...		—	—
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		—	82

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets ?—Yes, in the Parish of Ribchester.

Does Council contribute to cost of conversion ?—Yes ; some cases full cost, other cases half cost.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property ?—Water carriage.

Public Cleansing :—

(*a*) The method of collecting dry house refuse—Weekly collection in some parishes ; fortnightly others.

(*b*) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies : Weekly.

(*c*) The method of disposing of dry house refuse—Controlled tipping.

(*d*) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies—Spreading on land.

Has a destructor been provided ?—No.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by public authority, contract, or occupiers of houses.—Scavenging carried out by direct labour.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements ?—Nil.

Are motor vehicles used ?—Yes.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night ?—By day in winter, night in summer.

Do the Sanitary Inspectors supervise the scavenging ?—Yes.

Sanitary inspections during 1937—

No. of premises visited—3,506.

Defects or nuisances—No. discovered, 78. No. abated, 68.

No. of notices served: Informal, 58. Statutory, 1.

Legal proceedings—Nil.

Shops—Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops.—General control of shops by Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary conveniences—14 Inspections have been made and all were found satisfactory.

Smoke abatement—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement—No special action.

Swimming Baths and Pools—No such baths in the area. One at Hutton Grammar School.

Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to council houses—Inspection and if found necessary bedding, furniture, &c., disinfected in transit.

Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority or by a Contractor ?—Contractor.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing—Nil.

Schools—

(*a*). Sanitary Condition—Satisfactory. (*b*). Water Supply—Satisfactory.

Workshops and workplaces—Number on register, 101—What is their condition?—Satisfactory

Tents, vans, sheds, &c.— Action taken—Inspection and necessary action.—Are they adequate?—Yes

Underground Sleeping Rooms—Any need for regulations?—No.

Canal Boats—Number inspected—5. Number of infringements of Acts—Nil.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :—

No. of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold—Nil.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1937—Playing fields.

Chief sanitary requirements of the district—The sewering of unsewered areas.

4.—Housing.

(For Statistics see body of Report.)

General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :—The housing condition is for a rural area generally good.

Sufficiency of supply of houses—Extent of shortage, if any—None known, private enterprise provides sufficient houses.

Fitness of houses.—No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply—324.

No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation.—1989.

5.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(*a*) Milk Supply—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915; The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922; and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926—421 samples of milk taken for dirt test, the results being : 318 clean, 32 very slightly contaminated, 51 slightly contaminated and 20 dirty. Bacteriological examination—21 samples have been taken from retailers in the district. The B. Coli content ranged from absent in 1 c.c. to present in 0·001 c.c. The tubercle bacilli results : 1 positive, 20 negative. 71 samples have been taken from schools and examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli : results, 3 positive

68 negative. The County M.O.H. was notified of the positive results in each case. In addition to the above, the County Public Health Department received 42 notifications that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in the Preston Rural Area.

No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised' milk—6 dealers' licences.

Method used for the pasteurisation of milk ("flash" or "holding") No pasteurisation plant in area.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops: Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. How often?—Constantly. What is their condition? Satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) further works on the ground that the required alterations afforded an opportunity for the remodelling of cowsheds?—Yes, following applications to be placed on accredited Roll.

Farms: No. of dairy farms—643 Approximate number of cows in the district—12,251.

Cowkeepers: No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) 647.

Number of inspections during the year—1175.

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)—117.

Action taken by the local authority as to Tuberculous milk:—

Number of samples submitted for biological test—92. Result Positive—4. Negative—88. Bacteriological examinations—No. of samples 21. No. satisfactory 16. No. unsatisfactory—5.

Sediment tests—No. of samples 421. No satisfactory 318. No. unsatisfactory, 103.

(*a*) Meat and other foods—Observations on—

(1) Action taken with regard to meat and other food, including inspection of slaughter houses, meat shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared—Under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. 185 Notices of intention to slaughter have been received and 2180 carcases inspected.

(*b*) (2) Inspection of meat—The following meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

For Tuberculosis

1	Whole beast and all organs.
59	Beasts' plucks.
43	Beast heads and tongues.
12	Beast livers
2	Forequarters of pork
59	Pigs' plucks
95	Pigs' heads
1	Pig carcase and organs
1	Pig's liver

For other diseases	Beasts' sirloin, aitch bone, rump and flanks for brusing
	1 Beast's pluck for parasites
	2 Beast's livers for parasites
	4 Beast's livers for cirrhosis
	1 Beast's pluck for pneumonia
	2 Beasts' livers for angoima
	2 Beasts' livers for necrosis
	1 Beast's liver for cloudy swellings
	16 Pigs' plucks for cirrhosis
	4 Pigs' plucks for pneumonia
	3 Pigs' lungs and hearts for pericarditis
	1 Pig's pluck for cloudy swellings
	2 Pigs' carcases for fevered flesh
	2 Legs of pork for bruising
	1 Pig's carcase for bruising and oedema
	1 Sheep's liver for parasites
	1 Sheep's pluck for abscesses
	1 Sheep's liver for cirrhosis

Approximate total weight of meat condemned—4200 lbs.

(3) Food poisoning (including suspected cases)—Nil.

(4) Bakehouses: 24. Condition—Generally clean.

(*c*) Adulteration, &c.—Action taken in respect of Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—Controlled by the Lancashire County Council.

(*d*) Chemical and bacteriological examination of food—Controlled by the Lancashire County Council.

6.—Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation provided or available :—

For smallpox—Fylde, Preston and Garstang Joint Hospital Committee. Where situate—Elswick.

For other infectious diseases—Preston, Fulwood and Longridge Joint Hospital. Where situate—Fulwood.

No of beds available for your district—32.

Is it joint or otherwise ?—Joint.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treatment?-No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease. The total cost to the local authority for two recent years :—

Year ended 31st March, 1937	£1,268
Year ended 31st March, 1938 (estimated) ...	£1,312

Observations as to sufficiency or otherwise of the available accommodation—Accommodation sufficient.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to the best advantage?—No special action.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever?—Yes; or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home? Some cases where there are no other children in the family, the patient is nursed at home.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative?—No. or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough?—No hospital provision for these cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin: Notes on the supply and prompt use—Promptly used. Supply depot in Preston and at the Isolation Hospital.

Pneumonia, malaria and dysentery—Experience in regard to these cases—Dysentery outbreak at Mental Hospital.

Discovery of and action taken in regard to (*a*) contacts, (*b*) return cases, (*c*) carrier cases:—

(*a*) Always carefully observed.
(*c*) None in evidence.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations—At which laboratory are specimens examined?—Preston Royal Infirmary.

No. of specimens examined in 1937:—Blood agglutination, 7; Typhoid, 4; T.B., 20; Milk B. Coli content, 21; Gonococci, 1; Gonococci and culture, 1; Tuberculosis, 8; Sputum culture, 1; Diphtheria, 110; Vincent's angina, 4; Haemolytic streptococci, 28 Meningococci, 1; B. Anthracio, 1; Water-bacteriological, 3. Total—210.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1937 for—Scarlet Fever 1. Whooping Cough—Nil. Diphtheria—Nil. Chicken Pox—Nil. Measles—2. Influenza—19.

Disinfection after infectious disease:—

No. of Houses disinfected during 1937—99. Method: Formalin tablets—gaseous.

Are houses disinfected after (*a*) Phthisis?—Always.
(*b*) Measles—No, except by request.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise)—Steam disinfector.

No. of Articles disinfected—By arrangement with Preston C.B.

Where is apparatus situate?—Fulwood P.A. Institution.

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

June
~~May~~, 1938.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937, for the Rural District of Preston, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	3	None.	None.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	51	29	None.
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises).	None.	None.	None.
Total	54	29	None.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	24	24	—	—
Other nuisances	5	5	—	—
Total	29	29	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.—Nil.

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1938.